

**SUNSHINE PERIOD****RECEIVED**

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To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB  
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Subject: UNE-P Task Force Press Release and Charge

**MAR 25 2003****Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary**

Attached is a Press Release and Charge Statement setting up the Task Force to implement the UNE-P Order. This fulfills my initial commitment as promised in our earlier discussions. I look forward to working with you on this crucial task.

CC: Stan Wise [E-mail], Nelson. Robert B [CIS], Tom Dunleavy [E-mail], Chuck Gray  
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96-98

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## **PRESS RELEASE**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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March 13, 2003

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### **NARUC President appoints UNE-P Implementation Task Force**

**WASHINGTON, DC – March 13, 2003** – National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners President David S. Svanda today announced the appointment of members to the NARUC President's Task Force for the Implementation of the UNE-P Order. The Federal Communications Commission recently adopted rules concerning incumbent local exchange carriers (LECs) obligations to make elements of their networks available on an unbundled basis to new entrants. The FCC's action will allow the states to make state and geographic specific determination on the future of the unbundled network element-platform (UNE-P), which has fostered competition and allowed more than 10 million consumers nationwide to receive their local telephone service from new service providers.

"I am proud to be appointing the following highly qualified and experienced officials, representing a wide cross-section of state public utility commissioners to collaborate among the state commissions and with the FCC and other interested parties across the country on this critical issue," stated President Svanda. "These state Commissioners provide the task force with a regional diversity to make sure all aspects of the unbundling issue are represented when assisting the states in their own granular analysis. They bring forth great experience and expertise that will be crucial to addressing the issues that the states will be faced with in implementing the FCC's UNE-P order. They have shown a technical understanding of the unbundling issues in many other proceedings to date and their prior experiences will help to assure the states success in implementing the FCC's UNE-P order in a timely and organized manner."

The task force members include the following state Commissioners:  
Becky Klein of the Texas Public Utility Commission, serving as Task Force Chair  
Dave Svanda of the Michigan Public Service Commission  
JoAnne Sanford of the North Carolina Utilities Commission  
Marilyn Showalter of the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission  
Connie Hughes of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities  
Bob Rowe of the Montana Public Service Commission  
Ronda Fergus of the Ohio Public Utilities Commission  
Lila Jaber of the Florida Public Service Commission  
Paul Vasington of the Massachusetts Dept. of Telecommunications & Energy

President Svanda also gave the Task Force its initial charge of responsibilities, including fostering the exchange of information among the states, providing technical assistance and facilitating discussions with interested parties.

Rebecca Klein, Chairman of the Texas Public Utility Commission accepted President Svanda's challenge to spearhead the efforts of the task force. "I am honored to work with my fellow commissioners to facilitate a unified effort that will lay the foundation for the states' timely implementation of the FCC's triennial review order," stated Task Force Chairman Klein. "This joint effort will help create procedural uniformities where appropriate, while recognizing unique and granular facts within each state."

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*NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. NARUC represents the interests of State public utility commissions before the three branches of the Federal government.*

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## NARUC PRESIDENT'S Task Force for the Implementation of the UNE-P Order

Thank you for agreeing to be an active participant on this critical Task Force. Your willingness to contribute your time, energy and resources to this important undertaking will be appreciated by all who have a stake in or are affected by the UNE-P. This communication formally creates the Task Force, and provides you individually and collectively with your charge.

UNE-P is jump-starting local telecommunications competition for residential and small business customers, just **as** Congress undoubtedly intended in enacting the 1996 Telecommunications Act. More than 10 million consumers nationwide receive their local phone service from new entrants via the so-called UNE-platform.

UNE-P has been a main focus of the FCC's triennial review and the subject of much discussion and debate over the past year. The recent FCC decision is the culmination of months and years of review with comments, statements and opinions by all stakeholders. The continued viability of the competitive telecommunications market is a state, regional and national issue of significant importance. For this reason, a bipartisan majority of NARUC's member commissions strongly support the FCC's UNE-P decision **as** it was described in the FCC's press release. It allows states, which are in the best position to make state and geographic specific determinations, to decide the future of UNE-P.

The details of the FCC's triennial review order, which will be forthcoming, will crystallize many of the concepts contained in the FCC's press release. What is evident even at this preliminary stage is that the states will have the pivotal role in determining the level of unbundling necessary on a state-by-state basis. It is also clear that states will have a very compressed time frame for conducting a geographic specific, factually intensive analysis. It is with great urgency, therefore, that NARUC takes the lead in creating a task force to assure our membership that we have the tools and expertise necessary to assist the states and allow them to continue to perform their jobs efficiently and correctly.

The task force will assist any interested member states in organizing and/or in establishing a procedural vehicle to help them meet the implementation challenges ahead, while also allowing each state to conduct its individual analysis as it sees fit. Like NARUC itself, this task force is comprised of commissioners representing a broad spectrum of states, large and small, urban and rural. That is precisely what makes this organization *so* effective.

My formal charge to you follows. Please consider it **as** your starting point, adding to it and subtracting from it **as** you see fit, and circumstances dictate. I look forward to working with the Task Force and with our colleagues around the country to implement the UNE-P Order in an effective, efficient and timely manner.

### **NARUC President's Charge to the Task Force:**

Act as a clearinghouse and coordinator for information to guide the states in the implementation of the FCC's order on UNE-P

Foster the exchange of information among the states

Provide technical assistance by gathering state staff expertise and resources in one place to consult and formulate procedures and processes to assist the states in conducting their own granular analysis

Act **as** a facilitator in discussions to implement the FCC's order by involving all parties in the process; state commissions, RBOCs, ILECs, CLECs, and including appropriate consultations with the FCC

Provide a template for the states to use, which would include a uniformity of approaches, priorities and schedules to assist the states in carrying out their role in implementing the FCC's order

To the extent feasible, act as a facilitator for regional and other resources combining approaches

Support states **as** they carry out their individual responsibilities under the UNE-P Order